

BIG SKY PATHWAYS INITIATIVE Guidance

In order to help Montana's High Schools develop/improve/expand their Big Sky Pathway(s) the Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education will be funding the participation for all schools to send at least one content-specific teacher and one counselor to attend a Big Sky Pathways Development Meeting. These meetings will address horizontal and vertical alignment of identified Big Sky Pathways. There will be funding capacity for each school to develop at least seven Big Sky Pathways, and we hope you take advantage of this opportunity to work with the Postsecondary Institutions to ensure your Pathway(s) lead to a postsecondary program. As a recipient of Perkins funding, you know you are required to have at least one Big Sky Pathway developed. In the spring of 2011, the OPI will be requiring a signed Request for Approval from you and a two-year college partner indicating this work has been completed. Pathways to address all the requirements of a signed Request for Approval can be built through your participation in the Big Sky Pathway Meetings.

How It Will Work

1. Two-year colleges have identified the Big Sky Pathways they will work with high schools to develop. A lead college faculty member along with the OPI Education Specialist will coordinate the two required meetings.
2. By **September 20**, high schools will identify or validate earlier selections of the Big Sky Pathways and college partner(s) they wish to work with. To keep travel costs down, we ask you to choose the college partner(s) geographically closest to you for each selected Big Sky Pathway. In late September 2010, high schools will receive a communication from their college partner(s) about the training schedule.
3. High schools are to send **at least** one content-specific teacher and guidance counselor to the two meetings (other counselors and administrators are welcome). High schools will be reimbursed for substitute costs and travel costs (mileage, per diem and hotel if needed). High schools may choose to begin development of up to seven Big Sky Pathways in conjunction with this initiative.
4. Training will be conducted to create Pathways adhering to all the identified requirements of an approvable Big Sky Pathway. Requirements will be presented at the development meetings.
5. Schools not wishing to participate will be required to submit their self created Pathway(s) with Postsecondary programs in the same manner, i.e.: by demonstrating their Pathway(s) fulfill all the required assurances for OPI Approval.

Outline of Two Required Meetings

Meeting One (all day):

- Overview of Big Sky Pathways and required assurances
- How to craft a Big Sky Pathway for your high school
- The role of the college in crafting a Big Sky Pathway for your high school
- Content Standards, Knowledge and Skill Statements, and Industry Standards
- Role of Advisory Committee
- Web-based guidance delivery system (MCIS)
- Postsecondary credit opportunities—dual credit, articulation, online, etc.
- Dialogue between secondary teachers and post-secondary faculty

High school teacher/counselor homework:

Work with appropriate administration, faculty and local program advisory committee for input and bring a draft of Big Sky Pathway(s) to next meeting.

Meeting Two—at least two weeks after Meeting One (all day):

- Peer review of proposed Big Sky Pathway draft
- Enter Big Sky Pathway into MCIS
- Submit Request for Big Sky Pathway Approval form
- Submit paperwork to your college partner for substitute pay and mileage reimbursement from college

BIG SKY PATHWAYS Development Meetings

(EACH SCHOOL MAY CHOOSE UP TO SEVEN)

Name of School _____ Person Submitting Report _____

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ Dawson CC

____ FVCC

____ MS -Great Falls COT

____ MSU-Northern

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ FVCC

____ MSU-Billings COT

____ MSU-Great Falls COT

____ MSU-GF COT @ Bozeman

____ MSU-Northern

____ MT Tech COT

____ UM-Helena COT

____ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

ARTS, A/V TECH AND COMMUNICATIONS (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ Dawson CC – Music Technology

____ MSU-Great Falls COT – Interior Design

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ Dawson CC

____ FVCC

____ MSU-Billings COT

____ MSU-Great Falls COT

____ MSU-Northern

____ MT Tech COT

____ UM-Helena COT

____ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ Dawson CC – Early Childhood Education

____ FVCC – Early Childhood Education

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

FINANCE (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

____ FVCC

____ MSU-Billings COT

____ MSU-Great Falls COT

____ MT Tech COT

____ UM-Helena COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

HEALTH SCIENCE (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

- ☐ FVCC
- ☐ MSU-Billings COT
- ☐ MSU-Great Falls COT
- ☐ MT Tech COT
- ☐ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

- ☐ UM-Missoula COT – Culinary Arts

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

HUMAN SERVICES

- ☐ FVCC

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

- ☐ FVCC
- ☐ MSU-Billings COT
- ☐ MSU-Great Falls COT
- ☐ MSU-Northern
- ☐ MT Tech COT
- ☐ UM-Helena COT
- ☐ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

MANUFACTURING (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

- ☐ Dawson CC
- ☐ FVCC
- ☐ MSU-Billings COT
- ☐ MSU-Great Falls COT
- ☐ MSU-Northern
- ☐ MT Tech COT
- ☐ UM-Helena COT
- ☐ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

MARKETING SALES AND SERVICE:

- ☐ UM-Missoula COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

- ☐ DCC
- ☐ MSU-Northern

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS (You may choose NO MORE than one from this category):

- ☐ MSU-Billings COT
- ☐ MSU-Great Falls COT
- ☐ MSU-Great Falls COT @ Bozeman – Aviation
- ☐ MSU-Northern
- ☐ MT Tech COT

Name of the High School Teacher contact: _____

- ☐ Our School does not wish to participate in the Big Sky Pathway Development Meetings.
Submittal of the Request for Approval form due to the OPI by February 15, 2011.

**SUBMIT TO OPI via FAX @ 406-444-1373 or EMAIL to mgregory2@mt.gov
BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2010.**

Please contact Renee Harris with all questions regarding submittals at 406-444-2059.